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For Immediate Release

Contact: Harry A. Robinson
Yvonne Reynolds
(201) 430-2212/2217

NHA CELEBRATES COMPLETION AND OCCUPANCY OF 124 NEW TOWNHOUSES

NEWARK, February 6, 1995 -- Today's ceremony celebrating the completion and occupancy of 124 new Newark Housing Authority (NHA) townhouses is "another milestone" in the agency's commitment to build 1,777 new housing units and "continue the renaissance of the city of Newark," declared Harold Lucas, NHA Executive Director.

"It was only two years ago amid the snow and ice of February and March that we began construction of these 124 units here in the Central Ward," said Lucas.

"The completion and occupancy of these very desirable townhouses is another manifestation of how we are changing the face of public housing in Newark and how we are trying to make a difference in people's lives.

"These new housing units stand in stark contrast to the free-standing, brick high-rise buildings around us -- housing that really belongs to an earlier era in our society," Lucas noted.

In the past 24 months, the NHA has 659 new townhouse units constructed or under construction, with requests for construction proposals for an additional 196 units currently being advertised.

"Our replacement housing agenda is one of the foremost new construction programs in the nation and exemplifies the progressive development taking place in the city of Newark," Lucas added.

"There is no question that the NHA, after years of inertia, is fulfilling its mandate of providing low-cost, quality public housing to the citizens of Newark, and we are quite proud of our recent accomplishments.

"I don't know of another housing authority in the country that has had the extraordinary success we have had in such a short span of time, in large measure because of the support and cooperation of the public and private sectors of the community," Lucas emphasized. "We appreciate the efforts of everyone who has helped us accomplish our mission."